matter with the Government of Nepal at all appropriate levels.

Agreement between India and Pakistan to promote Bilateral Tourism

190. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been under consideration an agreement between India and Pakistan to set up and promote bilateral tourism and also to attract tourists to the sub-continent;

(b) if so, whether any agreement in this regard has been reached between the two countries; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) No, Sir. There is a Tourism Protocol between the Government of India and the Government of Pakistan signed on 20th May, 1984 which governs the promotion of group tourism between the two countries.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Differences between India and Sri Lanka on IPKF

191. SHRI KAPIL VERMA:

SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VIKAL:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the chances of negotiated settlement of differences between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka on the question of timetable for withdrawal of I.P.K.F. and other issues;

(b) what is the future of S.A.A.R.C. in light of Sri Lanka Government's stand; and

(c) whether any new initiative to make Sri Lanka change her stand is proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Government have repeatedly made it clear that the IPKF's withdrawal schedule should be worked out through joint consultations alongwith a simultaneous schedule for the implementation of the Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement. Government have also conveyed its willingness to have discussions on this subject at any time and at any place convenient to the Sri Lanka Government. Pursuant to this a Special Envoy of Prime Minister visited Colombo from 12-7-89 to 14-7-89. So far however, the Sri Lanka Government has been following a path of unilateral deadlines and ultimata.

(b) Government attaches considerable importance to the SAARC and will continue to work for expanding and strengthening it. However, one of the fundamental principles of SAARC is that regional cooperation need not await resolution of bilateral and contentious issues. These issues should therefore be kept out of the deliberations of SAARC. The continuation and future prospects of SAARC very much depend upon the scrupulous adherence to this principle by member states.

(c) No initiative is planned.

Prime Minister's Talk with U.S. President during proposed visit to France

192. PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL